

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Wolf Creek

*National Fish  
Hatchery*



*Over a century ago, it was recognized that conservation measures were necessary to maintain good fishing in our public waters. Fishing has always been one of America's leading forms of outdoor recreation. The primary responsibility of the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is to raise rainbow trout which will help preserve this tradition for present as well as future generations of Americans.*

*Construction of a dam, regardless of its type, alters the entire environment within a river. The first and most obvious change takes place when the reservoir fills, but many changes may also take place below the dam. Some of them might be subtle, and others, like those in the Cumberland tailwaters, might be quite drastic.*

*Wolf Creek Dam produces a large, deep reservoir in which the water stratifies into temperature layers during the summer and fall months. The water released into the Cumberland River comes from a deep, cool layer. It caused a loss of the original warm water fish habitat and replaced in with the present cold tailwater.*

**Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery**  
Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery was constructed in 1975. This is one of the most recently constructed hatcheries in the federal hatchery system.



This station currently produces approximately 1,000,000 trout weighing 230,000 pounds. In cooperation with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, fish are stocked into 90 different public fishing waters in the state. No private waters are stocked. The majority of the fish are stocked in waters controlled by the federal government.

The hatchery's water supply comes from Lake Cumberland at a depth ranging from 25 to 100 feet below the water surface. The water temperatures will range from 40° to 65° depending on the time of year. The water gravity flows through the hatchery at rates up to 10,000 gallons.





### Fishing and Camping

Fishing is allowed in the creek below the hatchery. This creek is Handicap Accessible with a ramp at creek level. The creek is randomly stocked 3 to 4 times a week.

The Cumberland river provides good fishing for trout, walleye, sauger, and others depending on the distance from the dam.

Lake Cumberland provides good fishing and is well known for the striper fishing which has produced fish in excess of fifty pounds. Lake Cumberland provides an excellent recreational area as the lake is approximately 55,000 acres with many fingers where a person can have their own little section to themselves.

Year-round camping is available at the Corps of Engineers, Kendall Park, 1 877/444 6777. Camping is also available at the Lake Cumberland State Park. Lodging is available at three resort lodges and numerous motels in the area. Houseboats can be rented from different docks if you choose to sleep on the water.

### What Can You Do?

Visitors are welcome to tour the hatchery and to fish in the creek below the hatchery.

*Hatchery Hours* 7:00 am–3:30 pm daily.

Restrooms, drinking water, and parking areas are provided for public use. During your visit, please feel free to ask questions you may have concerning the hatchery.

### Group Tours

Special group tours can be arranged with the Hatchery Manager. You are invited to return often.

*For Additional Information Contact*

Hatchery Manager  
Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery  
50 Kendall Road  
Jamestown, KY 42629-6502  
Telephone: 270/343 3797  
Email: James\_Gray@fws.gov



The 2.0 mile whispering Pines Hiking Trail is adjacent to the Hatchery and allows the opportunity to see a wide variety of wildlife native to the area.

This is an ideal vacation spot for anyone that likes water sports. Lexington, Bowling Green, and Louisville are about 100 miles from Jamestown, KY which offer horse racing and many forms of entertainment.

### 1. Visitor Parking



### 2. Sheltered Exhibit

At the kiosk, read information pertaining to the National Fish Hatchery System, Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Located throughout the grounds you will find informational signs to help you understand the hatchery and its operation.

### 3. Incubator and Juvenile Fish Rearing Area

Spawning operations are not conducted at this station. However, Federal hatcheries in Tennessee, West Virginia, Wyoming, and

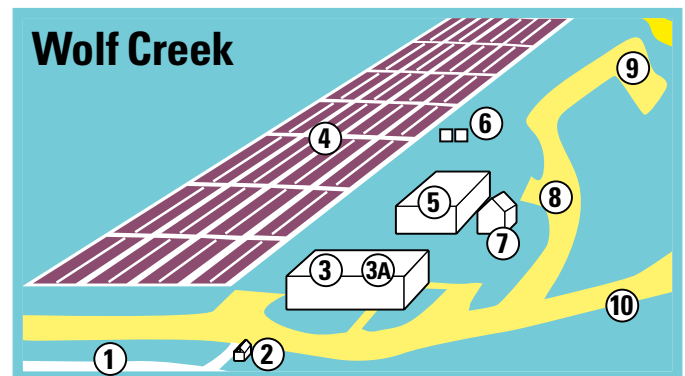


Montana hold adult trout (broodstock) which are spawned artificially. After the eggs are taken and fertilized, they are held at the station until they

develop to the eyed egg stage. Then the eggs are shipped via Federal Express to production hatcheries like Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery to hatch.

This is the incubator and juvenile fish rearing area. When the station receives eggs, fall through winter months, they are disinfected to prevent spread of fish diseases. They are counted using volume metric displacement and then placed in the incubators to hatch.

Approximately 10 to 14 days after the eggs are placed in the incubators, they hatch. The fry are left in the incubator for another 14 days until their yolk sac is absorbed. The fry are then transferred to rearing tanks where they are fed specially formulated feed hourly. The young fry, when they reach approximately 2 inches, become teenage fish and are called



*Please  
don't  
harm  
the fish.  
Keep  
hand out  
of water.*

fingerlings. When the fingerlings grow to 3 inches they are moved to the outside raceways where the larger fish are kept.

The fish enjoy visitors and will swim to meet you but it is harmful to them if you catch them.

### **3A. Hatchery Office**

### **4. Raceway Area**

Fish are fed and cared for until they reach the desired stocking size. It takes approximately 18 months to develop from egg stage to a 9 inch fish.

Feeding activities range from twice a day for the larger fish to 5–6 times daily for the smaller sizes. As the fish grow, transferring of them from one raceway to another is a regular occurrence.

Throughout the year fish are harvested from the raceways and distributed by truck for stocking in over 90 different streams, lakes and tailwaters in Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee.

### **5. Garage and Maintenance Buildings**

These are maintenance, garage and paint storage buildings where work activity involves the mechanical aspects of the hatchery's maintenance and operation. For safety reasons, this area is not open to the public.

### **6. Feed Bins**

Fish food is stored here for easy transfer to the vehicles which are used for feeding fish in the raceways.

### **7. Restrooms**

### **8. Road—Handicapped Only**



### **9. Parking and Fishing Ramp Handicapped Only**

### **10. Residences—Hatchery Personnel Only**



### **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

The Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is one of more than 65 units in the National Fish Hatchery System administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The Service also manages over 514 national wildlife refuges and major fish and wildlife research laboratories across the country. As the Nation's primary steward of fish and wildlife resources, the Service provides leadership in habitat and wetlands protection; fish and wildlife research and technical assistance; and in the conservation and protection of migratory birds, anadromous fishes, certain marine mammals, and threatened and endangered species.

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is one of many U.S. hatcheries located in the southeast region. These hatcheries serve a vital role in the management of our fishery resources.

We have enjoyed having you visit the hatchery and invite you to return often. Your awareness of our resource and its needs is the basic foundation for support of healthy fish and wildlife populations.



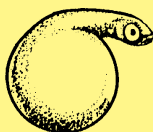
# Life-Cycle of Rainbow Trout

## *Egg to Fingerling*

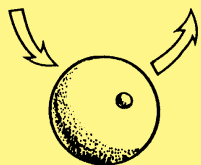
*Undeveloped Egg*



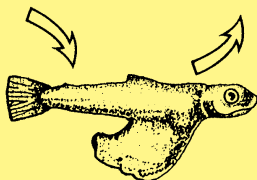
*Hatching Fry*



*Fingerling Trout*



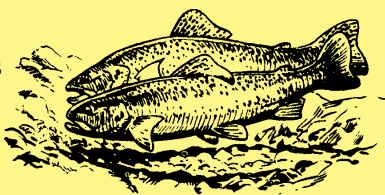
*Eyed Egg*



*Sac Fry*

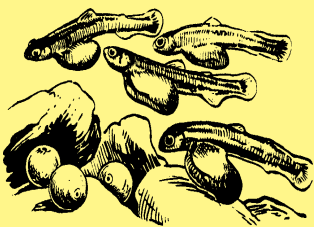
### **Natural Life**

Trout eggs are deposited in prepared redds, or nests in the gravel of stream beds and hatch in 8 weeks or more. A young fish or fry lives for 3 to 4 weeks on food absorbed from the yolk sac.



About the time the yolk is completely absorbed, the fingerling emerges from the gravel and feeds on microscopic aquatic organisms.

From the many eggs deposited in the gravel, only a very few young fish are produced and survive to adulthood. Most of the eggs and young fish die from natural causes such as floods, silt, drought and predators. Under natural conditions, relatively few trout reach catchable size to be taken by fishermen.



Photos by USFWS



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